

What's Going On In Our Corner? Southeast Wisconsin MS4 Permittees



Recent News Coverage Across Wisconsin On Road Salt Pollution

- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel:*
[Wisconsin Waters Have A Road Salt Problem. Here's What To Know, And How To Help.](#)
- *Fox 11 News:*
[Cutting Back On Salt In The Winter Is Key To Keeping Healthy Environment.](#)
- *Spectrum News 1:*
[Oak Creek Highlights Practices To Reduce Salt Usage As Part Of Winter Salt Awareness Week.](#)
- *Wisconsin DNR:*
[Reduce Salt Use This Winter.](#)
- *WEAU News:* [Local Organizations Continue To Reduce Salt Usage As Part Of Winter Salt Week.](#)
- *We Are Green Bay:*
[Sustainably Speaking: Importance Of Using Less Salt This Winter.](#)



Photo Credit: City of Oak Creek: Vaisala GroundCast sensor.

Topics

P.1 City Of Oak Creek

P.2 MS4 BMP Menu, Village Of Whitefish Bay

P.3 Upcoming Dates, Reminders And Events

City Of Oak Creek: Groundcast Sensors To Improve Winter Road Management

In 2023, the City of Oak Creek installed Vaisala GroundCast sensors to improve its winter maintenance program. These sensors measure road weather conditions and relay that information live to the municipality. These sensors not only provide live data, but also report forecasted road weather conditions. The forecasted data includes when the winter event is coming (within about 30 minutes of arrival), what type of winter event is approaching, and how long the event is predicted to last.

Oak Creek installed six sensors in different locations throughout the city to compile data on pavement temperature, surface status (wet vs. dry), and the recommended amount of treatment on roadways (pounds/lane mile). This data is sent to the cloud and inserted into multiple forecast models, which are then filtered down to a specific region.

Other municipalities with the same sensors can also provide data to the

platform, which improves the accuracy of overall forecasts for the area.

Installation of these sensors has allowed the city to refine its salt use and application techniques to minimize excess salting. The live and forecasted data allow staff to better preplan and gauge what treatment plan will be most effective based on real pavement conditions. Additionally, the ability to implement condition-specific salting techniques reduces the risk of oversalting.

Last but not least, now that staff can better preplan, there is more time to investigate and implement smart salting techniques and strategies.

The city explained that, because of these sensors, it is able to salt wisely and avoid discharging excess chloride into the state's waters.

Introducing The Wisconsin DNR MS4 Best Management Practices (BMP) Menu

In October 2000, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) created a [National Menu of Best Management Practices \(BMPs\) for stormwater](#). The menu of BMPs is based on the Storm Water Phase II Rule's six minimum control measures (MCMs) – also known as the six stormwater management programs (i.e., Public Education and Outreach, Public Involvement and Participation, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination [IDDE], Construction Site Pollutant Control, Post-Construction Storm Water Management and Pollution Prevention). The U.S. EPA's National BMP Menu provides information and resources on the broader topics of each of the six stormwater programs, but the information given is not specific to Wisconsin's MS4 Permit Program.

States have a choice to either create their own MS4 BMP menus or continue to reference and use the U.S. EPA's. Until recently, the Wisconsin DNR had referred MS4 permittees to the U.S. EPA's National BMP Menu if a permittee was seeking additional tools and resources to better implement their six stormwater programs. However, due to the broadness of the National BMP Menu, this understandably led to more questions and/or confusion.

On Jan. 16, 2025, the Wisconsin DNR rolled out its own MS4 BMP Menu developed to assist MS4 permittees in complying with their MS4 permits. The purpose of this MS4 BMP Menu is to provide resources and examples to aid permittees in selecting appropriate stormwater strategies. The MS4 BMP Menu includes information and resources for the six stormwater management programs, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and impaired waters requirements. Additionally, it includes current Wisconsin DNR publications relevant to the MS4 permit, example MS4 compliance documents and tools to help prepare MS4 permittees for MS4 audits and to assess the effectiveness of their own programs.

To learn more, visit the [Wisconsin DNR's website](#) to explore the MS4 BMP Menu. Wisconsin DNR staff will continue to update and add more resources, so be sure to check in from time to time.

Village Of Whitefish Bay: Walking Tour Of Green Infrastructure Improvements

In October 2024, the village of Whitefish Bay (WFB) hosted a walking tour of green infrastructure (GI) improvements that were installed along Wilson Drive, in partnership with MMSD.

While residents likely noticed the construction of these GI improvements, many were not aware of the added benefit related to stormwater pollution prevention. The workshop aimed to showcase these benefits, involve community groups and inspire community members to consider GI on their own properties.

Speakers included Sweet Water, Matt Collins (Village Director of Public Works), the WFB Garden Club

and MMSD's Fresh Coast representatives. Over 25 WFB residents showed up.

As a result of the workshop, over 70% of survey respondents said that their knowledge of GI at home increased, over 60% were interested in incorporating some new GI at home, and rain gardens were of most interest.



Photo Credit: Erin Povak, Sweet Water

2024 MS4 Annual Report Reminders

It is almost that time of year again. MS4 Annual Reports must be submitted by March 31, 2025, via ePermitting.

The 2024 MS4 Annual Report received some minor updates based on feedback received from MS4 Permittees on the 2023 MS4 Annual Report. Overall, MS4 Permittees can expect the 2024 MS4 Annual Report structure to be similar to the previous MS4 Annual Report.

For MS4 Permittees wanting to get a head start, the 2024 MS4 Annual Report PDF form is now available on the [DNR's website](#) for reference. Please note that the form contents must be submitted online via ePermitting.

Upcoming Dates, Reminders And Events

MyWisconsin ID And Multi-Factor Authentication Will Be Implemented For Wisconsin DNR ePermitting – Postponed

To better protect its systems, the Wisconsin DNR will move to a new login identity system called MyWisconsin ID and enforce multi-factor authentication (MFA) for Wisconsin DNR ePermitting.

Due to a technical issue that requires additional attention, the update to Wisconsin DNR ePermitting will be delayed until summer. This delay will allow us to ensure that the necessary changes are fully implemented and tested, providing a smooth experience for all users.

Questions?

Visit the [MyWisconsin FAQ webpage](#) for answers to common questions or contact the MyWisconsin account service desk at 608-471-6667.

Contact ePermitting support staff by submitting a [DNR Contact Form](#) for support with the Wisconsin DNR ePermitting system. Please fill out the required fields in the contact form and select “MyWisconsin ID” from the Permit Category dropdown menu.

20th Annual Clean Rivers, Clean Lake Conference

Feb. 25, 2025, at Discovery World in Milwaukee, WI. [Sign up for information.](#)

For the past twenty years, the Clean Rivers, Clean Lake Conference has been a hallmark occasion for the watershed community of practice in southeastern Wisconsin to come together to discuss strategies and projects to improve the health of our watersheds. This all-day event will include presentations from water quality experts and engaging panel discussions.

25th Annual Fox-Wolf Watershed Conference

March 4 through 5, 2025, at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Welcome and Conference Center. [Sign up for information.](#)

One of Wisconsin’s largest watershed conferences. Past attendees have included stormwater engineers, professors, community leaders, government entities, local elected officials, concerned citizens and more.

Save The Date: Waukesha County’s Spring 2025 Stormwater Workshop

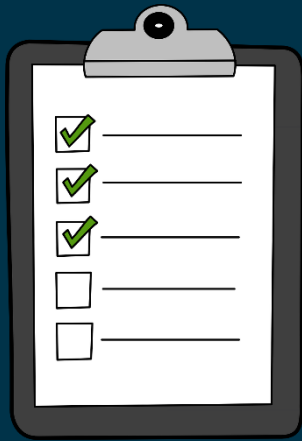
April 1 and 2, 2025, virtual workshop.

Waukesha County’s Land Resources Division plans to hold its Spring Stormwater Workshop on April 1 and 2, 2025, from 8 to 11:30 a.m. The workshop will be virtual and hosted by WI Land + Water. Please mark these dates on your calendar. Further information on registration will be available sometime in February.

2026 Urban Nonpoint Source Planning Grant Applications Now Available

Urban Nonpoint Source & Storm Water (UNPS & SW) Planning grant applications for projects beginning in 2026 are now available on the [Wisconsin DNR’s grant program webpage](#).

The following eligible applicants have until April 15, 2025, to submit applications for 2026 construction projects: cities, villages, towns, counties, regional planning commissions, tribal governments and special purpose lake, sewage and sanitary districts.



Want To Be Featured In The MS4 Spring Edition?

We want to hear about your municipality’s success stories and practical procedures.

Please reach out to Wisconsin DNR stormwater specialists with stories to include in upcoming editions:

Lexi Montes

Lexius.Montes@wisconsin.gov

or

Samantha Katt

Samantha.Katt@wisconsin.gov

